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Niagara NEWS

VOLUME 29, NO. 9

FREE

FEB. 12, 1999

Happy Valentine's Day



If all else fails, a cute teddy bear is a perfect way to say Happy Valentine's Day to your sweetheart.

Photo by Amy Kaal

Berry quits, byelection Feb. 15

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

A byelection for a Student Administrative Council (SAC) position will be held Feb. 15.

At the Glendale campus, Niagara-on-the-Lake, there will be a byelection for the vice-president of campus events.

There are four nominees: Jim Gordon, in his fourth year in the Business Administration and Accounting program; Serge Landery, also in his fourth year in the Business Administration and Accounting program; Kevin Grant, in his fourth year in the Business Marketing program; and Kevin Reles, in his fourth year in the Operations Management program.

The position became available when Michael Berry, who was the vice-president of campus events, "quit," says Jamie Ebsary, president of Welland's SAC.

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Two nights, more than \$2,000 raised

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

Alumni, this call is for you.

Every Wednesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. eight students from the Call Centre Management program will be making calls from Niagara College's Welland campus phone centre to alumni asking for \$25 donations.

The money will go into the college's student opportunity trust fund. Interest from the fund will provide student bursaries to penny-pinched but academically serious-minded students who will qualify.

The funds raised from this year's phone-a-thon will help the foundation achieve its goal of having more

than \$1 million in the bursary fund by the summer of the year 2000, said Liz Palmieri, development associate for the foundation.

Students calling former students fosters a "nice relationship," said Palmieri.

"The foundation is always great to work with as a team," said Rena Posteraro, program co-ordinator. The call centre assisted the foundation in a fund-raiser two years ago.

"It gives the students a sense of pride to work internally with the foundation." And it shows.

With two nights of calls under their belts, the students have raised more than \$2,000.

Palmieri says she finds their

enthusiasm "amazing." The enthusiasm may have something to do with the bottle of wine that has been thrown in as a take-home prize for the student who gets the last pledge for the evening.

"We are going to do it on a nightly basis," said Palmieri. The students wanted "some competition."

The incentive is a "boost," said Posteraro adding, it makes the evening "more interesting and more fun" for the students.

"It got to be fun last night because they were hiding the bottle of wine," said Palmieri, who attended last Wednesday's session.

This hands-on practical experience helps students complete the

100 hours of practical experience they need for the one-year course. As well, said Posteraro, it can help students "overcome that fear of talking live to people while applying customer service skills," and the experience can be included in their job portfolio.

"Personally, professionally and academically it really works well," said Posteraro.

Volunteer alumni from the college and students from the Business Sales program will be assisting in making the phone calls. Palmieri said about 2,000 alumni will be contacted by the end of April.

The provincial government will match dollar for dollar the monies raised.

DON'T MISS

The MARCH 1 Deadline

Applications for September '99 start programs received at OCAS
prior to March 1 compete equally.

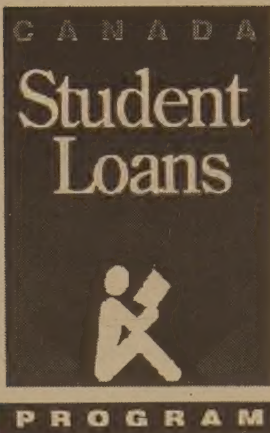
Following that date, qualified applicants will be accepted in order of date received.

For more information call x 7618, (905) 735-2211 • 641-2252 • 563-3254 • 374-7454 – Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30
Admissions Office, Welland Campus, SE103 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, ON



Eye On Niagara

Student loans based on need



By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered how the government decides which students get how much money and how they pay it back? Does a married man get more than a man in a common law relationship? How much does a student need to pay back one year after being out of school?

Here is a breakdown of how the government decides how much money students get, according to the Canada Student Loans Program Student Guide. Copies are available at the Financial Aid Office.

There are four steps to the pro-

cess. The first step is to categorize students according to their living situation. They are separated into single dependent student living at home, single dependent student living away from home, single independent student living at home, single independent student living away from home, and single dependent student living at home.

The second step is to assess cost according to education and living costs, depending on which category they fall into. Things considered are tuition, compulsory fees, books and supplies, and then living allowance, transportation costs, child care, other allowable costs and discretionary costs.

The third step is to assess a student's contributions depending on category and available resources. Considered are contribution from income earned during the four month pre-study period, contribution from income during studies, student/spousal contribution from assets and income, parental contribution from income and other resources.

The fourth and final step is to determine the student's needs by subtracting the total assessed resources from the total assessed costs.

Single parent students receive the most money followed by married students, single independent student living away from home, single independent student living at home, single dependent student living away from home, and single dependent student living at home.

Tuition at Niagara costs anywhere from \$2,011.80 to \$3,461.50 for one year. Up to \$165 a week can be borrowed depending on a student's needs. Students with one or two dependents can receive up to \$40 extra a week, and students with three or more dependents can receive up to \$60 extra a week to support their children.

Women in doctoral studies can qualify for up to \$3,000 a year for a maximum of three years. To be eligible, a female student must attend full-time in any of the following programs: Engineering (all fields), Aerospace Sciences, Architecture, Forestry, Agriculture, Biophysics, Biochemistry, Botany, Microbiology, Veterinary Sciences, Zoology, Astronomy, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Studies, Geography, Geology and related fields, Mathematics, Metallurgy, Materials Science, Meteorology, Oceanography and Water Studies, Physics. Resource

Management, Business Administration, Commerce, Management, Administrative Studies, Economics, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, Theological Studies, Dental Specialties, Physical Education, Law and Jurisprudence.

A student attending university receives more money than a student attending college because university tuition is more expensive than college tuition.

Students who have parents making a good income, \$60,000 for example, will generally not receive money unless there is a reason the parents can't assist the student.

Students must begin repaying their loans six months after they finish attending school.

The Canada Student Loan interest rate is based on a fixed rate of prime plus five per cent or a floating rate of prime plus 2 1/2 per cent. The Ontario Student Loan interest rate is based on a rate of prime plus one per cent. Students are given up to 9 1/2 years to repay the loans.

Students who fail to repay loans have their debts transferred to a collection agency, which will take away paycheques and tax return refunds.

Only Glendale students vote

Continued from page 1

Ebsary says he did "voice an interest" to return, but SAC had already motioned for a byelection and he did not run for it.

"I loved my job. The Glendale SAC is the best bunch of people to work with. Chris Williams is great," says Berry, explaining he left SAC because of "personal reasons."

He says he was "considering coming back," but he "didn't."

Only students at the Glendale campus can vote.



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Eye On Niagara

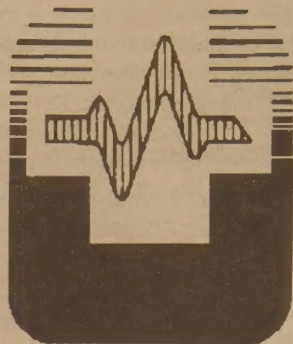
Fund-raiser leads hospital to bright future

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

The Welland Hospital Foundation has raised more than \$2.7 million through the Partners for Health Campaign.

Gina Eisler, campaign director, said another \$2.9 million is still needed to reach the \$5.7-million goal.

Eisler said the hospital's employees have made a commitment of trying to raise \$150,000. To date they've raised around \$80,000 through pledges to the campaign. Forty volunteers are working in the



community in the fund-raising effort.

"Fund-raising is going extreme-

ly well, and the community support is tremendous."

The campaign has four key areas, she said. The first is a maternal and child care unit which needs around \$1.6 million. "The re-designed maternity unit means labour, delivery and post-partum care occur in one room," said Eisler.

Every year the hospital delivers more than 800 babies. The campaign will provide funds to purchase a new isolette — a self-contained incubator for premature or ill newborns, she said.

The second area of the campaign

is acquiring urgently needed medical equipment at a cost of \$1.7 million, she said.

The third area is diagnostic imaging through the purchase of a new CT scanner and ultrasound machines. About \$1.9 million is needed here, she said.

Eisler said the fourth area is Rapelje Lodge, a long-term care facility which needs \$350,000 for new furnishings and equipment.

Tim Wright, Welland County General Hospital chair, said it's important to recognize the word "partners" because this fund-raising

campaign is about partners.

Wright said many changes have occurred within health care over the past several years, but this hospital has taken a "very proactive and progressive approach to them."

The 1992 to 1993 campaign focused on the shifts in health care technology, he said, adding this campaign is about "furthering our technological advances."

"We want to attract a medical specialist to the hospital and to the community," he said. "This campaign will help us to lead into the bright future."

New Queen crowned at winter festival

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

A new queen is crowned.

Anne Meginnis, 17, was crowned Queen of the Welland Winter Carnival Feb. 5.

Meginnis, in Grade 12 at Confederation High School, said being queen is "so exciting! I've never won anything like this before."

Her mother has always taken her to the carnival and was "so excited," says Meginnis, adding she has wanted to run for queen since she was a little girl.

Tricia Poulin, 18, was crowned first princess, and says,

'It's a blast. It's so nice to actually represent the community.'

-Tricia Poulin

"It's a blast," adding "it's so nice to actually represent the community."

She says she's been attending the carnival for about eight years and thought running for this pageant "would be a great opportunity."

Also new royalty in Welland are second princess Erica Bourdon, third princess Tasha Adams, fourth princess Angela Young and Miss Congeniality Melissa Beninger.

Rosie Smith, organizer of the carnival, said, "These girls are the cream of the crop," adding "they're beautiful girls."

The royal court will be attending most of the events during the carnival running till Feb. 21.

Save money with continuing education

Two criteria for free course

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Full-time Niagara College students can save money on Continuing Education courses.

Any student with a full course load can take a Continuing Education course without having to pay its administration fees.

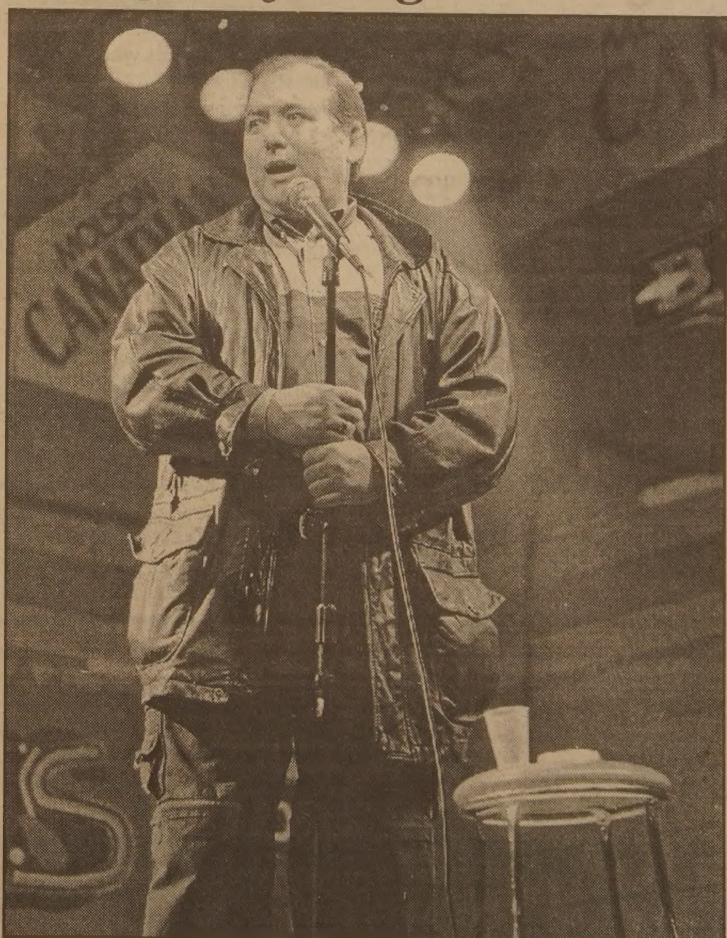
They still must pay course tuition

and any materials fees required.

Any full-time student whose course load is less than the program's normal course load may take a Continuing Education course at no cost provided the course taken is a course for credits.

The student must meet two other criteria in order to take the course for free. The first is that the student is unable to take the course during the day because of either a timetable conflict or unavailability of the course during the day. The second is that the addition of the course would not make the student's course load greater than the normal course load for that term.

A night of laughs



Ron Vaudry, of Montreal, took the Niagara College audience at the Welland campus pub by surprise with his humorous political observations on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Photo by Noelle Stapinsky



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	66 lbs	

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Centre Cut Pork Loin Chops	15 lb.	SAVE \$30.00
Gourmet Sausage	15 lb.	
Hip Roast	15 lb.	
	60 lbs.	

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Editorial

Niagara News

The **Niagara News** is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211 Ext. 7753/ 374-7454/ 641-2252/ 563-3254 FAX (905) 736-6005.



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Knifing health care to death

Why is it that the thing that means the most to so many Canadians is being cut?

Our health, and the care we get when we're sick, should come before anything, yet the Ontario health care system has been cut so much, it's almost impossible to knife anymore.

Many hospitals are closing across the province. If they haven't closed completely, they've closed partially.

In some cases those closings may be necessary, but how can the closings be justified when operations are cancelled because of a lack of beds or proper treatment facilities?

That's just wrong.

If people can't go to a hospital and expect to be treated, then where can they go?

The sick, the suffering and, unfortunately, the dying have to wait hours in emergency rooms because the hospitals are short staffed and can't afford to call in extra personnel in emergencies. That's assuming there are trained personnel available.

When will the government wake up and see that not providing better health care in Ontario is hurting more than just the ones in need?

The government is getting a bad reputation. Money's not the issue when it comes to health. Funding needs to be increased rather than cut.

Jackie Field

Big loan, big debt

We don't understand the strategy of the Canadian government and its notorious loans policy. We arrive at college debt free and naive, yet we leave with an education and a debtload for 15 or more years.

Many students need student loans to survive in a world of expenses for however long their educational goals will take to achieve. We take the loan, which never really covers the expenses for the year, and struggle for the last few months of the last term hoping to make it to summer so we can earn extra money.

When we graduate there is no sympathy. We are shoved into the working world and, of course, we have to start paying back our loan within six months with an unbelievable interest rate.

We suppose this is the way of life. By taking one step at a time we can avoid the panic and the stress and the struggle of the situation. Though it may be hard during the first couple of years, life will work out.

Big Brother is watching and probably laughing, but don't let him get the best of you.

Noelle Stapinsky

Let us know your opinion

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.
2. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

Killer punishment fits killer crime



By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

An eye for an eye.

It's been more than 20 years since Canada abolished capital punishment. With the frequency of violent crime on the rise, it may be time to bring it back though.

The taking of another human being's life is the most barbaric crime anyone could commit, or think of committing.

During the past decade, the number of violent crimes has risen dramatically. There are several reasons why this may be.

The increased economic uncertainty in the world has affected us all, and, thus, the rise in poverty — even in the free world — may be one reason why some resort to committing violent crimes for whatever reason.

Nonetheless, this is no excuse. Murder is murder. A life is a life. One thing is certain. We all have the right to live it. If someone takes away that right then so

should their right be taken away.

Capital punishment, or the death sentence, helps to do two things. It serves as an adequate and fitting punishment for committing an awful crime. It acts as an effective deterrent in preventing such crimes.

I don't understand the mentality of those who have pity for these sorts of criminals.

Take for instance the recent execution of a sex offender in the Philippines. Protesters held a silent vigil outside the prison where he was executed. Church bells rang throughout the nation during the actual termination of his life.

Sorry, but I feel no pity for this pervert. He repeatedly raped his step-daughter, in effect robbing her of a piece of her life.

While this man didn't commit a murder he did commit a horrible and unacceptable crime.

We often view, or label, nations such as this who invoke the stern hand of their law on these criminals as being barbaric, but I must agree with their philosophy.

Those who take a life, or rape someone, more often than not know what they've done. They, in turn, should pay the price for their mistake.

The means by which such a sentence is carried out doesn't matter. It couldn't possibly compare to the pain they've caused their victims, living and deceased.

Corrections

In the *Niagara News* edition of Jan. 29, 1999, incorrect information appeared in the report on page 23 "Graduate saves lives with new business." The president and chief executive officer of Welland County General Hospital (WCGH) is Tim Wright.

Frank Adamson, former co-ordinator of the Ambulance Emergency Care program, known as the Paramedic program, was a vice-president of the hospital. He is no longer associated with WCGH.

Also, Larry Flynt's name, the publisher of *Hustler* magazine, was incorrectly spelled.

It is the policy of *Niagara News* to correct errors of fact.

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Eye on Niagara

Niagara College joins with Brock University

A joint partnership aimed to help entrepreneurs

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

A new partnership has been formed.

Niagara College and Brock University in St. Catharines launched the Agriculture Technical Information Service (AgTIS) on Feb. 5.

This is a new partnership that will provide innovative technological and business information to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agriculture and agri-food sector.

The AgTIS service will provide quick access to technical and business information on existing domestic and international technologies to support research, development and commercialization to the enterprises.

"This is another excellent opportunity for Brock University and Niagara College to work together to offer leadership and support to our community partners in the agriculture industry," says David Atkinson, Brock University president.

The service will review and interpret information and research in

order to assist companies in making sound decisions for their business.

AgTIS is funded by the National Research Council (NRC) through its Industrial Research Assistants Program (IRAP).

NRC is a leader in the drive to create an innovative, knowledge-based Canadian economy.

IRAP is a nation-wide network of 260 Industrial Technology Advisors (ITA). ITAs are formed by scientists and engineers chosen for their subject area expertise and business experience. The ITA network gives small businesses access to the tools needed to succeed through technical assistance, through resources and facilities and through financial, marketing or management services.

AgTIS was created to provide a point of contact for the broader agriculture and agri-food sector.

These businesses will benefit from AgTIS through a number of different methods.

The access to innovative technological and business information on existing domestic and international technologies to support research, development and commercialization.

AgTIS is able to form an analysis and interpretation of information to assist SMEs in appraising emerging technologies.

AgTIS provides access to a comprehensive network of agriculture



David Atkinson, Brock University president (left), Dan Patterson, Niagara College president, Amy Lemay, technical information specialist for AgTIS, and Wendy Hollinshead, director at the office of research services at Brock University, share a toast to the launch of the AgTIS partnership program.

Photo by Tiffany Herron

and agri-food expertise and resources.

The linkages that AgTIS has to the most recent developments in agriculture and agri-food education, training and research.

AgTIS is also designed to search

for existing and emerging trends in the field, review and interpret the information to make good business decisions. AgTIS will also recommend possible strategies and next steps and link entrepreneurs to the appropriate experts and resources.

"This partnership venture utilizes the expertise and infrastructures of both institutions to benefit the vital agriculture sector, while providing new learning opportunities for our students," says Niagara College president, Dan Patterson.

KPI surveys are designed to better college system

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

The Ontario Ministry of Education and Training worked together with Ontario colleges to survey students, graduates and a number of employers during the week of Feb. 1 to 5.

The information being gathered was on graduate employment, graduate satisfaction, employer satisfaction, student satisfaction and graduation rate.

"We're calling them the KPIs or the Key Performance Indicators," said Bea Clark, director, Ventures division, Employment and Training Services at the Glendale campus.

"In other words, are students finding jobs and are there employment opportunities as a result of our programs? Are employers satisfied with the quality of our graduates when they come to the workplace? Are students satisfied with the types of services, facilities and programs that we offer to them on

a daily basis?"

Clark said she was the chair of the employer satisfaction working group.

She said she worked with a number of ministry and college staff members to develop the framework for the employer survey. She said she helped make sure the process for the collection of information from employers and graduates ran smoothly and efficiently.

"We've tried to notify both groups that this is taking place... that we are seeking input," she said. "Students and employers know that we are going to look carefully at their feedback — feedback about successes they've had and feedback about areas which require further development or attention. The fact that we're going to be analyzing information and using it to improve our programs and our services to employers, I think, is a benefit to everyone."

Clark said the preliminary results

from the survey show that employers are stressing certain skills and requirements.

"One comment that has come through, from a number of employers that have been surveyed, is that the reason they hired a Niagara College graduate is because our grads understood the responsibilities and how to work in a team. They were looking for individuals who were team players, who understood how to work within a work-team in the workplace."

Asked about negativity when surveying students and employers, Clark said some may refuse outright to provide the data, but she's hoping, through a good information campaign, to help people understand why it's important that they do participate and how much their comments really count.

Asked what possible plans could result from the survey, Clark said, "We're looking for trends."

She said if employers identify

the trends that they see emerging in the workplace — for example, if employers know that in the year 2002 everyone in the workplace will need to have skills in doing X or Y — then "we can begin to build that type of training and education into our programs here (Niagara College)."

She said through the student satisfaction survey, "if students are saying they want better access to different learning methods or different types of services," the college would review the students' suggestions and "see how we might respond to it."

Compustat Consultants of Toronto processed the information from the student satisfaction survey and Forum Canada Research of Toronto administered the employer and graduate survey.

"In terms of concerns (about the survey), the reason the function is centralized, particularly on the employer and grad survey, is to

insure that all colleges, all grads and all employers are treated consistently and fairly," said Clark, "and that the information comes forward in the same format, that the same questions are answered college to college, employer to employer and grad to grad. So it was our view that it would build in the fairness and consistency that we were looking for, so that no one could question the data because it was done by a neutral third party as opposed to other individuals who might have a greater interest in the data."

"We're taking this very seriously. We very much want to hear from students, employers and grads. We know that given the feedback they're going to give us, we'll be able to keep on doing the things we do well. We'll be able to improve those areas that still require development and I think this is everyone's opportunity to really help us help students overall."

Musicians Wanted

The Niagara News is seeking local indie bands which are looking for some FREE publicity! If your band has a recently released CD, or is in the process of producing a CD, then you'll want to be in our music supplement to be published March 26, 1999.

First come basis and space is limited.

If interested call (905) 735-2211/374-7454/641-2252 ext. 7748

International

Opportunity awaits students with 'world' culture

By **MUN-HEE SHIN**
Staff Writer

This graduate has another chance to get more international experience.

Jennifer Gillam, 24, of Guelph, Ont., left for Argentina to work as an intern for ECOSUR on Feb. 5. She graduated from the Ecosystem Restoration program of Niagara College last year.

The ECOSUR is a non-governmental organization, based in Rosario, Argentina, and is made up of more than 30 professionals from various disciplines.

It obtained legal status as an organization in 1993.

Its work involves the interface between society and environment.

"I'm going to be working for the ECOSUR, for the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) and for Niagara College," said Gillam, adding she already worked for the ECOSUR for her co-op placement.

Alison Ortwein, 26, of St. Catharines, international develop-

ment officer, said the ACCC hosts the International Youth Internship Program for colleges "to create opportunities for students or graduates to be able to work in other countries."

"It also allows for colleges to have students partaking in projects in working overseas," said Ortwein, explaining a percentage of airfare is covered for Gillam's trip to Argentina and \$1,000 is provided for accommodations for six months.

"This opportunity came up again for Jennifer because she worked nicely during her co-op placement," said Ortwein.

Alison said there are four more students who will follow Gillam after graduation.

"She (Gillam) will be able to give some directions for them," said Ortwein.

About 30 students applied to participate in this internship program. Nine were selected last October by Branka Gudelj, project officer of the international services at the ACCC.

Gillam said 23 questions were asked to select the most qualified students.

"They are looking for students who are flexible, who are adaptable and who can deal with culture shock and stress," said Ortwein.

"I'm hoping to get students excited about international work and to get the college known as a place which facilitates the international opportunities for students to put their skills in the workforce," she said.

Asked how she feels about her trip to Argentina, Gillam said, "I'm excited. It's going to be great for me to see the people I already met again because they are amazing to work with."

Working for the Youth Internship Program is Jennifer Gillam (right).

Photo by Mun-Hee Shin



Learning to be Canadian, eh?

By **JACKIE FIELD**
Staff Writer

The International and English as a Second Language (ESL) women were up for a night of Canadian culture.

On Feb. 2, the women experienced firsthand what it's like to be Canadian. They attended an Aloette party, at Niagara College at 7 p.m., in the International room of the Welland campus.

Aloette ranges from make-up to skin cleansing products, that are good for teens to older women. The cleansing products are for all different skin types — dry, normal, oily and combination.

Although the numbers were small, only four women showed up, along with Carolyn Ambrose, 33, an ESL teacher, the outcome was the same.

Betty Ann Chandler, 49, an ESL teacher, sells Aloette and thought this would be a good way to talk to

the women about "skin care, and a proper way to maintain their health."

Chandler said this was the "first of its sort" held at the college, and "40 per cent of the sales will go towards the Social Committee."

Chandler explained the history of the Aloette product, made from the aloe plant, which is known for healing cuts and wounds.

Fanjaniaina Andriamampianina, 19, of Madagascar, was the first to receive a make-over by Chandler.

She said she liked the new look, but her only question was what she should use to take off the make-up.

Chandler jokingly said, "You could buy all the products here."

Given the small size of the group, Chandler gave everyone a make-over.

She has been selling Aloette products for the past 2 1/2 years.



Betty Chandler (left) gave Carolyn Ambrose a make-over at the International Aloette party Feb. 2.

Photo by Jackie Field

Ontario Community Newspapers Foundation

Scholarships

Ontario Community Newspapers Association is a non-profit industry association representing 265 community newspapers across the province. Each week our newspapers are read by 3.1 million Ontario residents. The OCN Foundation was created to promote charitable endeavors related to the community newspaper industry.

We are seeking candidates for \$500 awards for two Journalism and two Advertising scholarships. These scholarships will be applied against tuition for the 1999/2000 school year.

Please submit your written application to the Journalism or Advertising Department office by **April 29, 1999**

and mark your package, Ontario Community Newspapers Foundation Scholarship.

The criteria for the awards are listed below. Kindly use these criteria as headings for your written submission. Representatives of your faculty will choose the nominees from your College that will be judged by the Ontario Journalism Educator's Association and Advertising Educator's Association this summer.

Winning candidates will be notified by September 1, 1999.

- Must live in Ontario and be a resident in a Print Journalism or Advertising Program at one of Ontario's community colleges and must be planning to return to full time program studies in the next academic year.
- Should show high academic standings in all subject areas.
- Should show evidence of financial need to support their college education.
- Should demonstrate an interest in improving the quality of life in their community by documenting their community involvement.
- Submit no more than three course-related projects from their current school year that demonstrate a variety of skills and expertise in their area of study. Published and in-class projects will be given equal consideration.
- Winning candidates will prepare an essay or article regarding the benefits to their academic career of participation in this OCN Foundation project, suitable for publishing in their college or community newspapers and OCN publications.

Helping to build the community newspaper industry's foundation of the future

International

Graduate returns to work at college

Good personality an asset for her new job

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

Her organized personality goes well with her job.

Alison Ortwein, 26, of St. Catharines, is an international development officer at Niagara College.

When asked how she describes her personality, she said, "I would say I'm generally outgoing and friendly. I'm also committed to my work."

She completed most of her degree at the University of Guelph, and then finished it at the University of Toronto.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in geography and international development at the University of Guelph and Toronto, she came to Niagara College and studied environmental management, a post-graduate program.

Ortwein has been working for the college since September 1997.

"I love my job. It combines my skill in international development and environment," said Ortwein, adding most of the projects she co-ordinates are related to environmental issues.

She said she got the job here via the Centre for Environmental Training, where she was working part time while attending school.

"At the time Niagara College wanted to hire someone who would fulfil the qualifications of an International Youth Internship Program."

Before she got a job here, she had worked in Peterborough at an eco-tourism company part time and also in Brantford at the Canadian Council for Human Resources in the Environment Industry two days a week.

Prior to that she'd worked in a national park in South Dakota, where she completed a waste, water and energy audit, and in the field of youth employment counselling after



ALISON ORTWEIN

graduating from university.

Finally, Ortwein was chosen for her current post after an interview with Jos Nolle, director of Niagara College's International Education Department.

"She had a great combination with her education background and her pleasant personality," said Nolle.

Nolle added Ortwein has good computer skills, learns new things easily and has a "kind attitude" as well.

"Her professional working skill always makes the visitors from other countries feel comfortable."

Her job as an international development officer includes project management, financial and narrative reporting to the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and the Canadian International Development Agency, and, lastly, preparation and planning for technical assistance missions to the countries partnering with the college.

"There have definitely been some challenges in this position, but things always seem to work out," said Ortwein.

She said she spends a lot of time with her friends, reads books and

listens to mainstream pop songs as her pastime.

"My hobbies include camping, canoeing, skiing and travelling," said Ortwein.

After her university degree was completed, Ortwein said she backpacked through South America, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia for three months.

"I chose South America because it was an inexpensive place to travel and (I) wanted to go somewhere for a few months. It was a wonderful experience for me."

She added she went to India last March as an international project co-ordinator, and will be returning to India at the end of this month.

Since her contract ends in October, she said she'd like to find a job in an educational institution.

"Eventually I will probably have a job working more directly with students, assisting them with securing employment because I find youth employment counselling to be extremely rewarding."

Social group plans entertaining venues

International, ESL students enjoy

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

The planning begins.

The Social Committee has been selected for the International and English as a Second Language (ESL) students at Niagara College.

Last week, the committee was chosen and on Feb. 2 their second meeting was held. The students are on the committee for one term.

Caroline Ambrose, 33, an ESL teacher, was the faculty member present at the meeting. Lindon Barrett, 21, a second-year Human Relations student, was elected president.

The group of 10 students discussed plans for upcoming trips and things they wanted to do throughout the term.

The committee is booking the gym during Break Week, March 1-5, for their use.

Ambrose said, "It is booked till the second, but is free after that."

On Feb. 6, a group of International and ESL students went to Toronto for the day. The students left Welland at 10:30 a.m., and stayed in Toronto until 8:30 p.m. The day was theirs to do with as they pleased.

A big part of the meeting was the discussion of the Valentine's party tomorrow night at After Hours.

The event will consist of a dinner, catered by The Venice Pizza



The Social Committee discussed plans for Valentine's Day and other upcoming events at its Feb. 2 meeting.

Photo by Jackie Field

and Pasta Bar, dancing and door prizes.

The Venice Pizza and Pasta Bar is located on the corner of Woodlawn Road and First Avenue in Welland.

The committee also discussed

plans for the year-end party.

Other possible events are a hockey game, a trip to a foreign restaurant and going to a dance club in Toronto.

Barrett said he knows some people who work at The G-Spot, where

"they play techno and dance music."

Emiko Yano, 23, an ESL student, said this was her first time on the committee, and she came to the meeting with ideas she wanted to discuss.

Ambrose led the meeting that, she said, "takes place every week."

Anyone interested in seeing what the upcoming events include should check the red board in the International office, S102, Welland campus.

To Advertise Call 735-2211 ext. 7748

Profiles

Froese disagrees with Regional policies

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Tom Froese signed on with the provincial Conservative party under Mike Harris's leadership knowing full well what he was in for.

Froese, elected to the Ontario Legislature for the first time on June 8, 1995, says he knew the Common Sense Revolution involved amalgamating the ridings to coincide with the federal system.

He says he couldn't sit on the sidelines and complain anymore and not do something.

"About two years before the election was called, I was looking at the whole situation of the province. The deficit was increasing in the wrong direction and I was concerned for the future of my four children."

He "believes strongly" that things needed to be done and he looked at the alternatives other parties were offering.

"I am now and probably always have been a Tory, but I've been very concerned of previous governments of all political stripes saying one thing and getting in and doing another. I knew there needed to be a change and at about the same time Harris and company came and asked if I would run for them."

Froese recalls the conversation when Harris called him. Froese says he was interested, but wanted to know more about who Harris was. At the time, the Common Sense

Revolution was just being formulated and Froese needed to see a platform document. He studied the document and "certainly who the leader was" and says he believed Harris to be a man who would follow through on most of the commitments that he made.

Froese explains the Common Sense Revolution is a platform document. It's a policy and it's "always problematic when you take that policy and put it into an operational basis."

Some people didn't realize what it would take to bring the policy statement into fruition, he adds, so "they didn't understand what they were voting for."

Only those in the public sector are having problems with this, says Froese.

"It did affect their jobs. Take for instance education. Where's the uproar?"

Froese "understands" the public's concerns about what the government is doing.

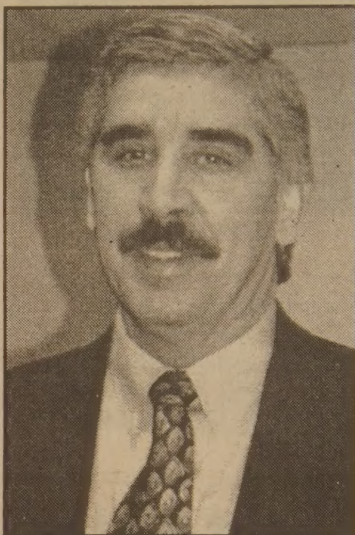
"Would I change it? No, but I understand their concerns."

He says the educational guidelines need to be in place, plus dates when things are supposed to be done, just as one does in one's daily life.

"It is a challenge, and I fully appreciate that, especially in education. But you have to set programs and plans up and we change those plans as we come to it. However, you have to have guidelines, so if we don't start, we'll never get started. So it is a chal-

lenge, but we need to work through that."

The ministries were required to do a business plan to focus on what their core services were and what the best possible service for the best price is and the best deal for taxpayers. That analysis translated into colleges and universities and hospitals, elementary and secondary school education, municipalities all



TOM FROESE

'The splitting issue in the coming election will be health care.'

-Tom Froese

re-focusing on what they're doing. "That's not a bad thing. Over

time, (we get) better services for the same dollar."

Froese was appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education and Training, with responsibilities for colleges and universities in April 1997 under the Minister of Education Dave Johnson.

Bill 104, The Fewer Trustees Act, reduced the size of school boards, and Bill 160, which contained the mechanics of how to make those reductions, were passed in 1997.

Froese says the *St. Catharines Standard* published an article stating 32,000 spaces in high schools were available and only 16,000 students enrolled. Froese is referring to an article done by the newspaper and not put out by the government.

Taxes continued to increase and enrolment didn't.

"There's going to come a day of reckoning and that day came."

He says there was no long-term plan looking into population growth or decline.

Raised on a farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Froese joined the Niagara Credit Union after high school graduation. He became the branch manager of the Credit Union's branch in Virgil.

He has received the Niagara-on-the-Lake Citizen of the Year Award and the 125th Commemorative Medal.

While at Queen's Park, he has served as a member on several all-party Legislative Standing Committees such as the Standing Committee for the Legislative

Assembly, was vice-chair for the Ombudsman Standing Committee, Standing Committee for Social Development and appointed to the Standing Committee on General Government.

"I knew I would lose St. Catharines-Brock riding right away. That was part of our platform. I said I would run one term and turn the province around and after that I'd take a look at what I'd be doing."

He says he has his résumé "fine tuned" and would like to be involved in making the changes started in education and health care happen.

"The splitting issue in the coming election will be health care."

What's happening with our municipalities and our region is one of Froese's concerns.

"I think they just don't get it as far as you don't increase taxes. You don't give 18 per cent pay raises to your senior people. I think that was totally insensitive. I think it was ridiculous. They're the ones yelling, kicking and screaming at the province, and what do they do? It really ticks me off that they raise taxes and give themselves an 18 per cent raise."

He says the direction Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman is going in is wrong and needs to be changed and that anyone raising taxes shouldn't be there.

"My motto has always been, the best possible service for the best possible price for the best possible deal for the taxpayer."

Media pushes veteran into public relations

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

The changing pace of today's news industry hasn't been welcomed by all.

Sara Buchan, 31, of Welland, is a Public Relations (Post-graduate) program student at Niagara College.

After 10 years' experience in the broadcasting industry, five as a broadcast journalist, Buchan has returned to college to pursue a career which, she said, will allow her to be more creative.

Buchan said she left the broadcast world discontented with the changing world of journalism. Her 10-year career in broadcasting took her from one end of the province to the other and even for a short stint working in St. John, N.B., which, she said, didn't work out.

Buchan joked about leaving her job there saying she went on sick leave.

"They got sick of me and asked me to leave."

Her educational background includes having a diploma in radio and television from Algonquin College in Nepean, Ont.; a diploma in radio announce production from Loyalist College in Belleville, Ont.; and a diploma in broadcast journalism from Loyalist as well.

However, her years of schooling

didn't come one after the other. She returned to school throughout her broadcasting career as she felt the need for change, whether it was because of downsizing, changing technology or the realization she was stuck and unable to move professionally.

At one point, she said, she felt the "itch" to just get away. She sold everything to pay for a trip to Australia, a place she had wanted to visit since childhood. She said she stayed there for six months traveling and doing odd jobs.

This was an experience she'd recommend to anyone, as it gave her a greater appreciation for her home in Canada.

Buchan said she came to Niagara's public relations program after realizing she wasn't happy with the way the news media were going.

"To me, my personal opinion is that the news industry has changed, and I don't like the way it's changing."

Buchan said that some people, especially younger people, think the whole VR Land, City TV image of a reporter walking around the newsroom with a clip board in hand is kind of "hip."

"I find it distracting and almost a potential cause of seizures."

She said, "It's a constricting of jobs. The same thing that happened to radio announcers is happening to news people. They're making reporters shoot their own stuff."



SARA BUCHAN

'... the news industry has changed and I don't like the way it's changing.'

- Sara Buchan

"I'm not interested in that," she said, adding it becomes too much of an assembly-line mentality.

"It's turn it out, turn it out, turn it out and sometimes the angle they want to take goes against how I feel about things personally."

Buchan recalled one incident when she was working a contract job with ATV, a television station in the Maritimes. She was sent to do an interview with a crafts maker who owned a shop where she made liquid paraffin candles. The candles had a cap on them that you could remove to fill them, she said.

The story was that a woman in Halifax had left one of these candles on a low-lying table where her two-year-old child got hold of it. The child removed the cap, drank it and ended up in a coma in hospital.

"I was sent to interview the woman who made the candles, and the woman had a breakdown in front of the camera."

"I was mortified. I wanted to say, 'Stop rolling! This woman has got to pull herself together.'"

However, she said the camera man told her this is what they wanted, so she put the piece together anyway and the television station loved it.

"That was it," she said, adding she didn't think like this.

"That was terrible. This woman is devastated and it wasn't her fault."

"To nail this woman to the wall ... it's a little fiendish to let somebody go through that and then put it on display. I found that very distasteful."

She said, in her opinion — adding some will disagree and they're wrong — this is the way news is going.

"And, I don't like it. I don't want to be associated with it."

She said it forces you to do things you're not really "hip" to doing, stifling your creativity.

"I'm a pretty creative person and that's where my hopes lie — with public relations."

She said she wants to use her creativity to get people to notice the things that people, companies and organizations do, whether it's promoting an event, a product or a service.

"That's where the creativity of public relations comes in and that's what I want to be able to do. That's what I'm hoping to be able to achieve through this course."

Buchan is interning with the Ontario Centre of Excellence for the Canadian Hockey Association in Toronto. She said she wants to work in media relations for a pro hockey team.

Profiles

One person 'juggling' three positions

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Three different jobs. Three different titles. All filled by one person.

Lou DiMattio is the Student Administrative Council (SAC) liaison, the assistant to Brigitte Chiki, director of the student services division, and the assistant to Al Vaughan, director of enrolment and registration services.

The most difficult part of her jobs is "juggling priorities." She says she has to constantly "re-adjust priorities" and change her daily plans but "that's what is exciting about it. Since I've started working, there has never been a boring day."

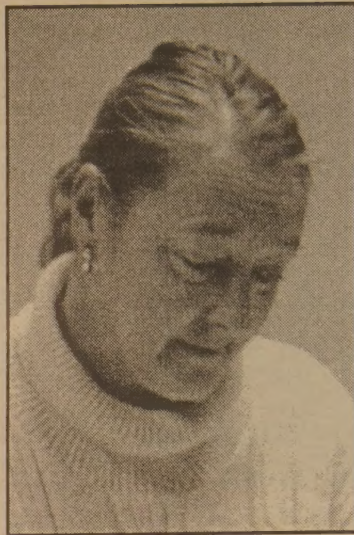
DiMattio attends most SAC meetings to ensure SAC keeps to

business and follows the constitution, she says. Any administrative concerns or questions SAC has about the college in general, they will ask her.

Students involved in SAC receive two credits for a student leadership course. DiMattio says she assesses some of the academic marks by what is submitted to her in written form.

DiMattio says, "I am really pleased with the restructuring of the three campuses" and "how it has worked out." Sometimes her job is like a being on a "roller-coaster ride." This year, it has been a "smooth ride," says DiMattio.

Niagara is "lucky to have a SAC that cares about students." They are "deeply concerned" with issues



LOU DIMATTIO

such as drinking and driving. They "stayed on track" and had a "cohesive information exchange between the three campuses," DiMattio says. Their "goal was to not alienate" students from other campuses and they are "very close to achieving that goal." They are a "very good, cohesive group."

Being the assistant to Chiki, DiMattio "needs to know" what Chiki is doing and what's happening in many departments such as counselling, the Aboriginal Centre, Special Services and the Student Centre, says DiMattio.

"I've been here for so long I am accustomed to what's going on," says DiMattio. She says her responses to tasks are "instinctive."

For her position as assistant to

Vaughan, DiMattio says she does things such as memo writing and making appointments. "A lot of things I do are as to his direction."

DiMattio says the best part of her job is "student contact" which leads to "personal friendships" with the SAC representatives.

DiMattio says she works the standard 40 hours per week but she's "thinking about her job 100 hours plus (per week)."

At home DiMattio has a husband, who has recently retired, a daughter, Beth, 29, who is an occupational therapist, and a son, 21, who has "special needs." Being involved in the Centre for Students with Disabilities has "helped" her in her "parenting role" with her handicapped son, says DiMattio.

Vallier gives audience a peek behind curtain

Public relations program gives networking opportunities

By MIKE EARWICKER
Staff Writer

Act 3, Scene 1: Take a post-graduate Public Relations program at Niagara College.

Act 3, Scene 2: Graduate from the program and get hired at the Shaw Festival, a theatre company that pulled in \$11 million in 1998.

This sounds like a great excerpt from a play but Kevin Vallier, 23, of St. Catharines, is working behind the scenes at the Shaw in Niagara-

on-the-Lake as the communication co-ordinator.

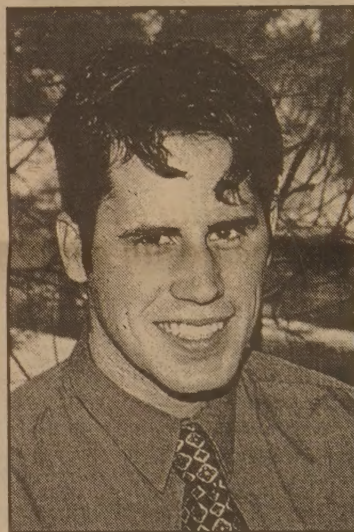
Originally from Sarnia, Ont., Vallier moved to the Niagara Region to take psychology at Brock University in St. Catharines.

"I didn't know what I was going to do with my psychology degree," said Vallier. After graduating from Brock he decided to take public relations at Niagara.

He says the program gave him a lot of practical and networking experience he didn't receive in university. Vallier was a unique person in the program last year.

"When we had guest speakers they always remembered Kevin because he was the only male," said Nancy Geddie, the Public Relations program co-ordinator.

Before working at the Shaw,



KEVIN VALLIER

Vallier was hired, after an internship arranged by the Public Relations program, at the St. Catharines Stompers to do office work, prepare press releases and co-ordinate promotions for the team, such as baseball player appearances at community events.

"It was a great experience but it is pretty limited in where you can go," Vallier said.

He heard Shaw was hiring and sent in his résumé. Odette Yazbeck, senior communications manager for the Shaw, contacted Vallier for an interview. It was his first interview for a job after his internship. Vallier now assists Yazbeck and prepares press releases for the Shaw.

"It's pretty easy now but I guess the tough stuff comes with the grand opening events for the plays."

Vallier says he looks at Shaw as a great opportunity to get to know what the inner workings of the theatre are and how to convey that to the public successfully.

"The first press release was the toughest," he says, although he was recently contacted by a college professor in the United States to put the "tough" press release into a Communication Advertising program's textbook.

Vallier finds he uses the techniques he learned from the program and that sport public relations is a lot like theatre public relations.

"Take advantage of the networking opportunities. Even if you are not really interested in the job, apply for it anyway."

Act 3, Scene 3: Phone rings. The interview is over.

International students get help away from home

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

International students entering Niagara College can be sure somebody will help them with the problems they encounter.

Sean Coote, 25, an international student adviser, is one source of information and advice.

Coote graduated from the Business-Administration Accounting program at Niagara College four years ago. He's been working here ever since.

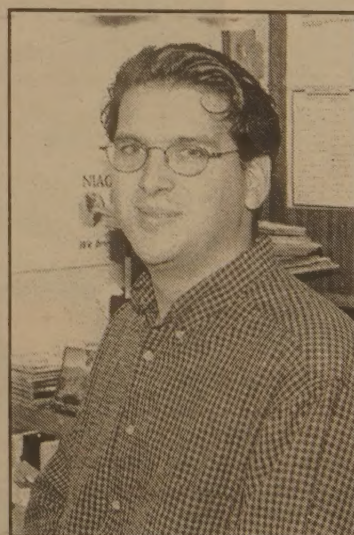
Coote said his job involves responding to any international student who wants to study here, sending out information about the college and giving advice as to what a student requires to enter college programs.

When students arrive, he said, he helps them become familiar with the services and community through orientation programs and some individual consultations.

Coote said an international student designation includes those who come from another country as a landed immigrant, and those who come here with a student visa and have to return after graduation.

The basic annual tuition fee for students is \$1,869 and the fee for post-graduate programs is \$2,950 per year. The international students' fee for post-secondary programs is \$8,900, he said.

International students aren't eligible for any government assistance or scholarships and are totally



SEAN COOTE

responsible for their expenses.

"Help for international students is provided with the aim of making sure they have a trouble-free study time," Coote said, adding the students know somebody will help them, so they can spend more time

some are from Latin America and the Middle East, but "very few" are from Europe, he said.

Many students would "love" to stay in Canada, said Coote, adding they can apply for the landed immigrant visa, which most of them get.

'The more they don't have to worry about all kinds of different things, the more they can concentrate on school and get back home.'

— Sean Coote

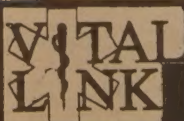
studying.

"The more they don't have to worry about all kinds of different things, the more they can concentrate on school and get back home."

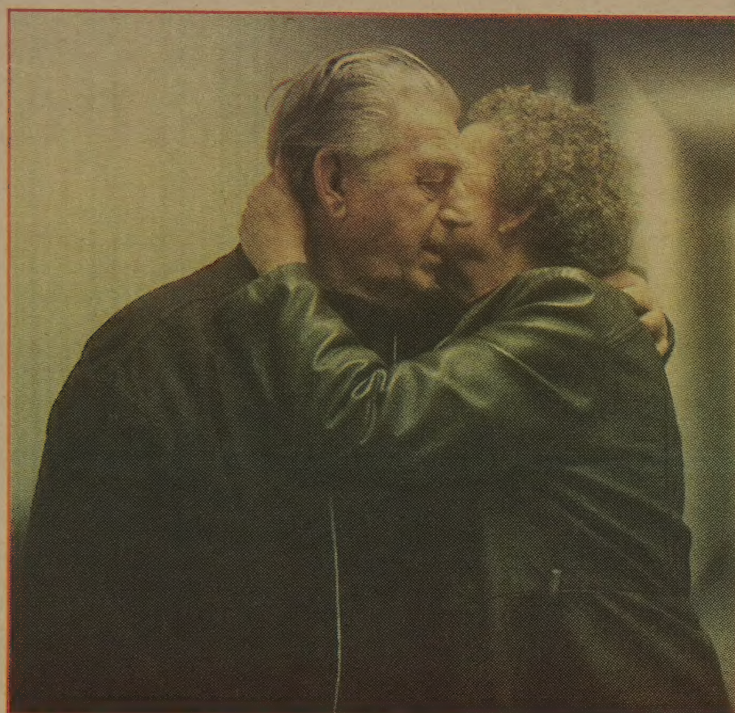
Most students are from Japan, Korea and Hong Kong, although

"The international student centre is the place they can call home, where they can find all the help they need."

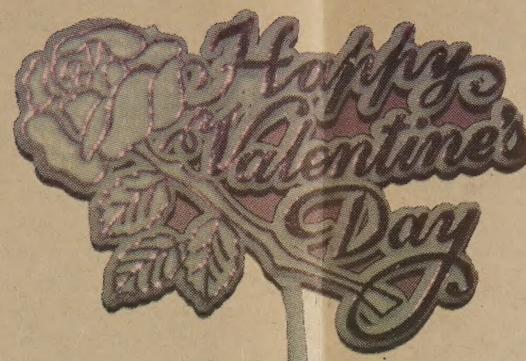
The centre is located in the Simcoe building in Room 102 at the Welland campus.



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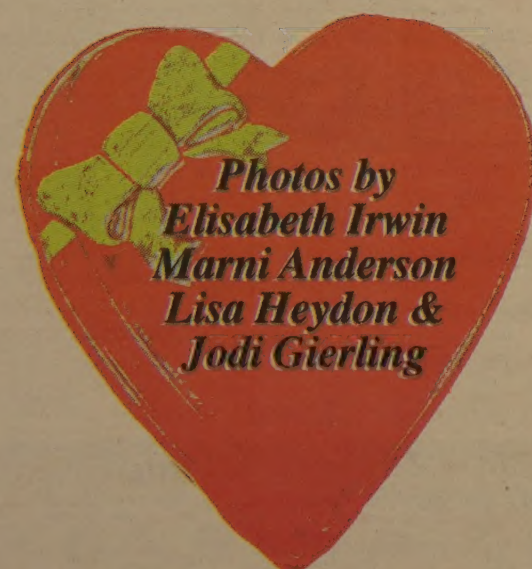
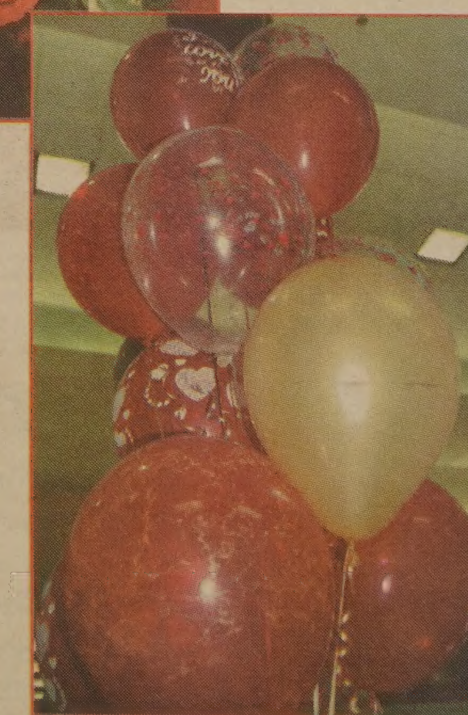
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Be my Valentine.*



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Board of Governors

College moving forward, thanks to board

Professional knowledge guides Niagara

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

They are the body to "move" Niagara College into the 21st century.

The Niagara College Board of Governors is not a widely discussed organization among the college's students. In fact, most students may not know of its existence, except from reports in the *Niagara News*.

The board meets on the third Thursday monthly. It's made up of a vast array of people with professional knowledge of a certain operational aspect of the college.

"They are the ones that are going to move the college forward into the 21st century," said Helen Moscato. She is executive secretary to the board of governors and administrative assistant to the president.

The board consists of 17 people: 12 external, four internal and college President Dan Paterson.

The 12 external members are chosen from the community, the Niagara Region, through a protocol developed by the board and approved by the Ontario Council of Regents. The council is an advisory board appointed by the minister of education and training.

"They are the approving body that makes sure the college stays current," Moscato said.

A document, called the Board Nomination and Appointment Protocol, contains these facts about the college and the community:

- A profile of the college.
- The demographics of the region.
- The strategic directions of the college.
- A current board profile and a description of the college's appointment process.

The 12 external members are chosen by the Nominating and New Member Search Committee, made up of current board members.

Once a member's three-year term is completed, the board begins the search process for new members to fill the vacancies.

Moscato said they keep track of the representation on the board through a chart, the Matrix of Skills Set and Experience. This chart, she said, keeps a running tally of each member's professional knowledge in his or her respective fields.

She said although a member's term is three years, that member can be asked to stay on for an additional three years, but no longer. The maximum term is six years.

When a member leaves, his or her name is removed from the chart leaving vacancies in those areas of expertise.

"So when a board member's term is about to end we know what those skills are that we're going to lose.

"We try very hard to meet those needs that have been unmet once that person has left."

Moscato said board members are usually considered through "word of mouth." A present member may know of someone who meets the requirements.

However, she said, "It has to be someone who is willing to sit on the board." The problem is that often the person being sought is already committed to serving on other boards.

"We've worked very hard to try to get the right people, and our board has become very strong.

"We are a very good, solid board. We are very diverse."

The people under consideration are called and asked if they want to sit on the board. Before they are interviewed, Moscato said, they're sent copies of the selection protocol, the annual report, strategic directions (mission statement) and the organizational structure of the college. Then they're interviewed by the search committee.

A set of questions, developed around the needs required by the board, is asked of each prospective member.

With a decision made, names are forwarded to the Council of Regents, which approves and officially appoints the members.

The four internal members are chosen through a peer election process as they are already part of the college.

The representation is as follows:

- One representative of the student body.
- One representative of the administrative department.
- One representative of the faculty.
- One representative of the college's support staff.

"The four internal are very important to the board, as they represent the constituent groups of the college," Moscato said. "The student representative is very important," adding the student often adds an important aspect the college's administration hasn't considered.

The student representative is a member for one year, which is September to August, as they're often in their last academic year when they come to the board,

Mission Statement/Strategic Directions

Niagara College enables our students, clients and community to develop applied skills and knowledge for employment, economic success and responsible citizenship in a global society. The college will do the following:

- focus on our core business, which is to develop the skills, knowledge and enterprising edge that lead our students to career and employment success.
- act as a major partner in developing economic strengths and distinctive areas of excellence to position the Niagara Region for success in a global economy.
- ensure that our college is accessible to a broad range of students and offers a high quality of student life.
- ensure our programs and services meet and exceed standards and expectations for quality and relevance, and demonstrate our accountability through key performance indicators.
- recognize that our core strength is our staff, encourage and sustain strong organizational and employee commitment to life-long learning and improving skills, knowledge and ways of working.
- achieve strategic growth and sustained financial viability by being resourceful and entrepreneurial in all our operations and investments.

Moscato said.

The president is on the board by virtue of his office.

The three vice-presidents act as resource people. Moscato said they're the people with hands-on experience within their given areas.

"Finding the right board members is the key to accomplishing our strategic directions," Moscato said, adding they strive for the ideal board.

For example, she said, they try to have a gender balance among board members, try to include people with special needs, look for representation from the aboriginal community and college alumni and from each community within the peninsula.

"It's hard to get everything we want," she said, adding the priority is to meet the college's strategic directions.

The board's internal operation is similar to that of most town or city councils.

Within the board there are these

five committees:

- Property Committee
- Priorities and Planning Committee
- Audit Review Committee
- Nominating and New Member Search Committee
- Executive Committee.

The chairs of all committees sit on the executive.

There is also an Internal Elections Committee. However, she said, this has two board members and the rest come from throughout the college.

Moscato said the board's primary concern is moving the college forward.

"I'm really proud to be the secretary to the board. I'm proud of the board. I'm proud of what they do."

Board members are not paid for their service as membership is voluntary, Moscato said.

"The governors are very important to the college system because they are the community's voice."

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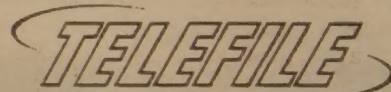
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Between the Covers

Characters come alive in book about true love



By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

"I'll come back before next Valentine's Day, Caroline. I promise."

Caroline and Lieutenant Neil Thomas had a love so strong it lasted 50 years, despite his being away at war.

The Last Valentine, written by James Michael Pratt, shows how true love is possible as long as you believe in it.

Caroline wasn't going to give up on her husband. He left on Feb. 14, 1945, to fight during the Second World War. He promised her he'd return the next year on Valentine's Day.

Caroline believed he would. For the next five decades she returned

to the airport every year in hopes of seeing him step off the plane.

Their son, Neil Jr., who never met his father, wanted his parents' love story made into a movie, and that's when he met Susan Allison, a television reporter.

At first she didn't believe the story would be produced, but the more she read Thomas's script the more she started to fall in love with their story.

Who could imagine going back to the airport every Valentine's Day for 50 years because she never gave up hope her husband was alive?

Two days before Valentine's Day, 1995 Caroline received a package saying her husband was returning.

On Feb. 14, Caroline again went to the airport. This time she saw her husband and knew it was time she spent the rest of her life with him.

As her son got to the airport, he knew it was too late.

It was exactly 50 years later her husband kept his Valentine promise to her.

That year Neil took Caroline to a place where they could be together forever.

Susan fell in love with the story and shared an intimate moment with Neil Jr.

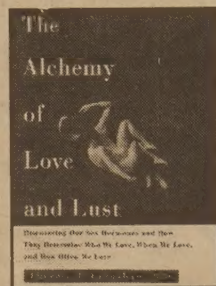
The story is sad but makes you wonder if true love like theirs really does exist.

The characters came alive. As I read more and more I felt as if I were with them.

The book was published in 1996 by St. Martin's Paperback.

If you want to read a romantic story about love that is timeless, begun in childhood and spanning the years to a golden anniversary, this is the book to read.

Chemistry of sex



By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

If you have the questions, this book has the answers.

Dr. Theresa L. Crenshaw takes you on a rollercoaster ride through the discovery of sex hormones and why they make us do the things we do.

Everyone has unanswered questions about love and lust or just craves to know why we fall for the people we do. This book, *The Alchemy of Love and Lust*, will have your answers.

Do you know why nursing mothers don't usually want sex after giving birth? It's because of a chemical their body produces. The level of prolactin is unusually high in nursing mothers.

Prolactin is in charge of producing milk for the baby and tends to severely reduce sex drive.

This is just one of the dozens of different things males and females will learn if they flip through this book. It's geared to help us see what a huge part of our life is controlled by our hormones and to help us understand the chemistry of sex.

This knowledge is also a relationship strengthener, allowing us to experience what the opposite sex is feeling and to understand what the other goes through.

It's a very insightful and fact-filled book full of years of research and discoveries. It made me feel more confident and knowledgeable about myself as a woman.

I recommend the book to anyone interested in a good read. It will widen your horizons and give you something amazing to tell friends and family. It'll give you something to think about in dealing with your present and future relationships.

America seen through author's eyes



By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

John Steinbeck said there's an urge all Americans have to drop everything they have and to travel.

He said he had been writing about America without having heard the speech of America, without having smelt the grass and trees and sewage, or having seen its hills and waters or its colour and quality of light.

In the 1960s, Steinbeck decided to take a journey across America, from the northernmost tip of Maine

Steinbeck main character in novel

to California's Monterey Peninsula to find out who Americans were, after all.

He wrote a couple of plays, a screenplay and a documentary, but was most noted for his novels. The list is extensive, but among his classics are *Of Mice and Men*, *The Little Red Pony*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Pearl*, and *Sweet Thursday*.

In each book, he opens the door into a delightful world as he leads the reader into the vast field of human thought and perception

In each book, he opens the door into a delightful world as he leads the reader into the vast field of human thought and perception.

In *Travels With Charley, In Search of America*, the reader drinks from the lake of the human character. The main character here is Steinbeck himself.

Conversations between Steinbeck and Charley, his "intelligent" French poodle, bring an innocence

and a humour to the journey. The reader soon finds himself as hopelessly committed to the literary chauffeur as is the faithful pet.

Steinbeck brings the reader into dusty, side-of-the road truck stops, into plastic, over-used hotel rooms and through ancient, forgotten forest trails. His speculations on and detailed reflections of the characters he encounters along the way bring

the reader into the private place of the ordinary person's mind.

As well as drawing us nearer to the thoughts of a classic author, his book, with its careful observations of the ordinary American, brings us closer to the human stranger and to ourselves.

This book was published by The Curtis Publishing Co., Inc., in 1962. His classics can be found in nearly every bookstore and library.

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Author feels bicycle-helmet law enforcement's quick fix to safety

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

This author feels bicycle-helmet enforcement is a quick fix.

John R. Davis, author of *The New Road Warriors*, is opposed to the bicycle-helmet law.

The 55-page book, published by Piquant Publications, presents every argument possible opposing the use of helmets.

The book is well written in the sense it covers every aspect of the issue, including political, legal, philosophical and psychological.

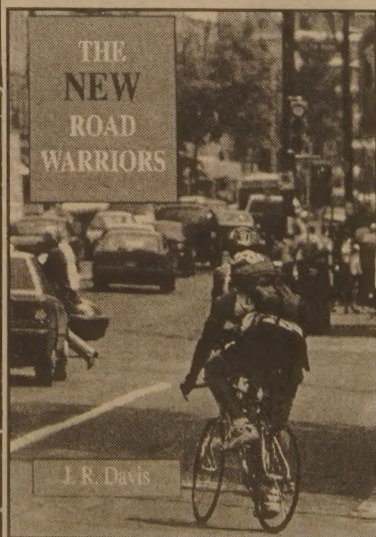
It does, however, cover only Nova Scotia. That makes it difficult for readers in other jurisdictions to relate.

The New Road Warriors includes many good arguments, some being comparisons. Davis says, "I have no argument with today's seat belt, except when it is used as a comparison for bicycle helmets." I agree with Davis on this point.

Although Davis covered many arguments, it won't change the law.

As a cyclist, I don't enjoy wearing a helmet, nor do I enjoy wearing steel-toed boots for a job that requires them. If the law requires I wear a helmet or steel-toed boots, I'll wear them.

I give this book 6 1/2 out of 10.



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Sports

Men's soccer expects winning season

By **ROBIN MORAIS**
Staff Writer

Niagara College has a men's indoor soccer team that can hold its own against its opponents.

So said Sandro Perruzza, 30, the confident coach of the men's squad. He said the college has a "very good team" which can come in at first or second position in the Ontario West Regional Championships.

This would qualify the team for the prestigious Provincial Championships.

He said the toughest competition at the regional level is Toronto's Humber College.

"While at the provincial level, the tough teams are Humber, George Brown College, St. Lawrence College and Kingston College."

Perruzza has coached the college men's indoor soccer team for four years.

He said the team can accomplish this goal by working hard and using

their heads to play the game rather than just reacting to a play.

He said the team had not played any warm up games because of the late start to the indoor college soccer season.

Perruzza said the team's first competition was on Feb. 7 at the men's invitational at Conestoga College in Kitchener.

"It's a warm-up tournament."

Perruzza said he doesn't have a schedule yet but he should be getting one soon.

He said the next tournament for the team is the men's and women's invitational at George Brown College on Saturday, Feb. 13.

"Teams from all over Ontario would be participating."

Perruzza said teams come from colleges and universities but one American squad usually takes part as well.

As for the individual players themselves, he said they have a returning Ontario All Star from last year, a Saudi Arabian named Anwar Ahmed.

Perruzza described him as "a gift-

ed striker."

He said the team had another talented Yugoslavian forward named Miladin Mitrovic, as well a solid defender in Mike Chieffo, another veteran from last year.

As for new talent in the team for this year, he said there are two other good forwards, Stephen King and Joey Lamberti.

"I have some very good forwards."

"I'm expecting big things from them," an enthusiastic Perruzza stated.

In the midfield area, he said, he has another Yugoslavian player named Davor Stepanovic, whom he described as a "dark horse."

"I expect him to shore up our midfield."

"I also expect some solid plays from striker Brian Panunto and Felice Taddeo."

"If they can pick up their game, I'm confident we can do well."

In the goalkeeping department, he said the squad has two good players.

"One guy is a converted hockey goalie who is good at cutting down

the angles and the other is a good outdoors goalie who is learning the indoor game."

Perruzza said the team's greatest strength is the players' love and respect for the game, which he has instilled into them.

He ended by, once again, emphasizing once everybody steps up to a higher level game, the team will do well.

"Our chances would be excellent."

When contacted by *Niagara News* last Monday about the team's performance at the men's invitational tournament at Conestoga College, he said, "We did well considering it was our first tournament."

"We beat some very good teams."

The college lost just one game and that was against University of Toronto 3-1 but the team defeated Canadore College 5-1 and the Conestoga Alumni team 5-2.

They drew 1-1 with a tough George Brown squad and 3-3 versus Conestoga College.

Perruzza said the competition

was "an exhibition tournament."

He said the competition was organized on a round-robin format involving six teams, with everyone playing each other once.

"The top two teams at the end of the round-robin stage played each other in the finals which turned out to be University of Toronto and Conestoga College."

"The whole team was exceptional but I think our outstanding players were Anwar Ahmed, Felice Taddeo and Miladin Mitrovic."

He stated the goalkeepers put in "a strong effort because the most number of goals any team scored on us was three."

Perruzza described team morale as being "great because they believe in themselves."

He said nobody was injured during the tournament.

A happy Perruzza stated the squad surprised the other coaches and teams in the competition.

"If Humber College, which is one of the top college teams in our region, can scout us out, then we know that we played well."

Knights' goalie earns shutout

By **LEE WHITEHEAD**
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Knights women's indoor soccer team competed in their first tournament of the season on Feb. 6.

Conestoga College in Kitchener hosted the Conestoga College Invitational, an exhibition tournament in which several colleges and city club teams participated.

In the first game of the round robin, the Knights faced a Conestoga Alumni team, which had been playing together for three years.

The Alumni proved to be too powerful, winning by a score of 4-1. The Knights' goal, which turned out to be the only one they scored



in the tournament, was scored by Jacquie Malley.

In the second game, the Knights played St. Mary's, a club team, and played better to earn a scoreless tie. Knights' goalkeeper April Haines earned the shutout.

The third game brought more dis-

appointment to the Knights with a 5-0 loss to the Kitchener Spirit, another club team. This loss eliminated the Knights from the tournament as they were unable to make the playoff round.

Injuries were a key factor in the lack of the Knights' success as two players were unable to play because of injury while another hobbled throughout the tournament on a badly-bruised ankle.

The Knights will play in a tournament this weekend hosted by Toronto's George Brown College. This will be the final tuneup before the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association Regional tournament to be held March 5 and 6 at Ancaster's Redeemer College.



Jacquie Malley, a Knight, keeps the ball away from a St. Mary's team member. The women's indoor soccer tournament was held at Conestoga College on Feb. 6.

Photo by Sean Coffey

No pain, No gain

By **LEE WHITEHEAD**
Staff Writer

Frustration is part of recovery.

Cory McKeown, a member of the Niagara College Knights men's volleyball team, had his season prematurely ended by a torn Achilles tendon on Oct. 10 in an exhibition match. He says it's disappointing not to be a part of his teammates' success.

"I'd love to be playing but there's nothing I can really do about it," says McKeown, 21, a second-year student in the Law and Security Administration program.

However, McKeown says his ankle is getting stronger.

"I'm back to doing regular things like running. I started practicing with the team a cou-

ple of weeks ago.

"It's almost learning how to walk again. I've got to go from step one with a lot of strengthening. I'm going to therapy two times a week and I'm trying to work out every day."

McKeown says he thinks he'll return to form by the beginning of next season.

"In the past month there's been a huge, dramatic increase in my strength and mobility and I'm really pleased with the way things are going right."

Although he says he still feels some pain, he says he knows he must deal with it.

"You've got to work through the pain. If a little pain and discomfort is what I need to take it to the next level then I have to deal with that."

Hoops team split pair

LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Niagara College men's basketball team split a pair of games on last weekend's road trip.

On Friday night, they travelled to Windsor's St. Clair College and dropped a tough 100-84 loss to the Saints.

Scoring for the Knights were Haldon Hutchison (18 points), Ernell Ellis (14), Paul Stewart (13), Curtis Francis (11), Kyle Handrahan (10), Dave Klassen (nine), Randy Clark (six) and Mike Wencel (three).

Saturday afternoon found the Knights rebounding with a con-

vincing 101-54 win over Lambton College in Sarnia.

Aaron Paisley was a defensive standout, limiting Lambton's top scorer to only seven points.

Scoring for the Knights were Hutchison (16), Steve Boyle (15), Paisley (13), Stewart (13), Ellis (12), Francis (11), Wencel (eight), Handrahan (seven), Ben Tomiuck (five), Clark (two) and Klassen (one).

Niagara's record now sits at 3-3 with two road games this weekend in Sault Ste. Marie against Sault College.

The next home game for the Knights will be next Friday when they host St. Clair.

Sports

Knights lose key player

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

The Knights suffered a loss and another injury.

The Niagara College men's volleyball team lost three straight to the Humber Hawks last Friday night. The scores were close at 10-15, 9-15, 13-15 but not enough to win.

"I'm pleased with the way things went," said Blair Cudmore, of Welland, coach of the men's team.

"Humber is, by far, the best team in Ontario and we proved that we could play with them and they know that we're probably the team they have to watch out for," said Cudmore.

Kerby Bentley, 22, a Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op) program student and captain of the men's team, agreed.

"It was just like I dreamt," said Bentley. "The balls were coming right to us. The sets were there and we didn't look like a bunch of first years. It was an excellent game to watch and play."

The Knights generated more kills than Humber and overall more offence, but there was one thing missing.

Shawn Barbizon, a first-year starter for the Knights, was injured during a pre-game practice.

"I'm disappointed that Shawn

got injured," said Bentley. "He would have been a huge factor in the game. He would have gotten at least 10 blocks, which would have made a difference. He puts up a big block. Shawn touches around 12 feet so you just can't hit around him."

Cudmore said it happens every year: key players go out with injuries.

The Knights have a few weeks to adjust to Barbizon being out if his injury is sustained. Bentley said they have two options depending on the injury's severity.

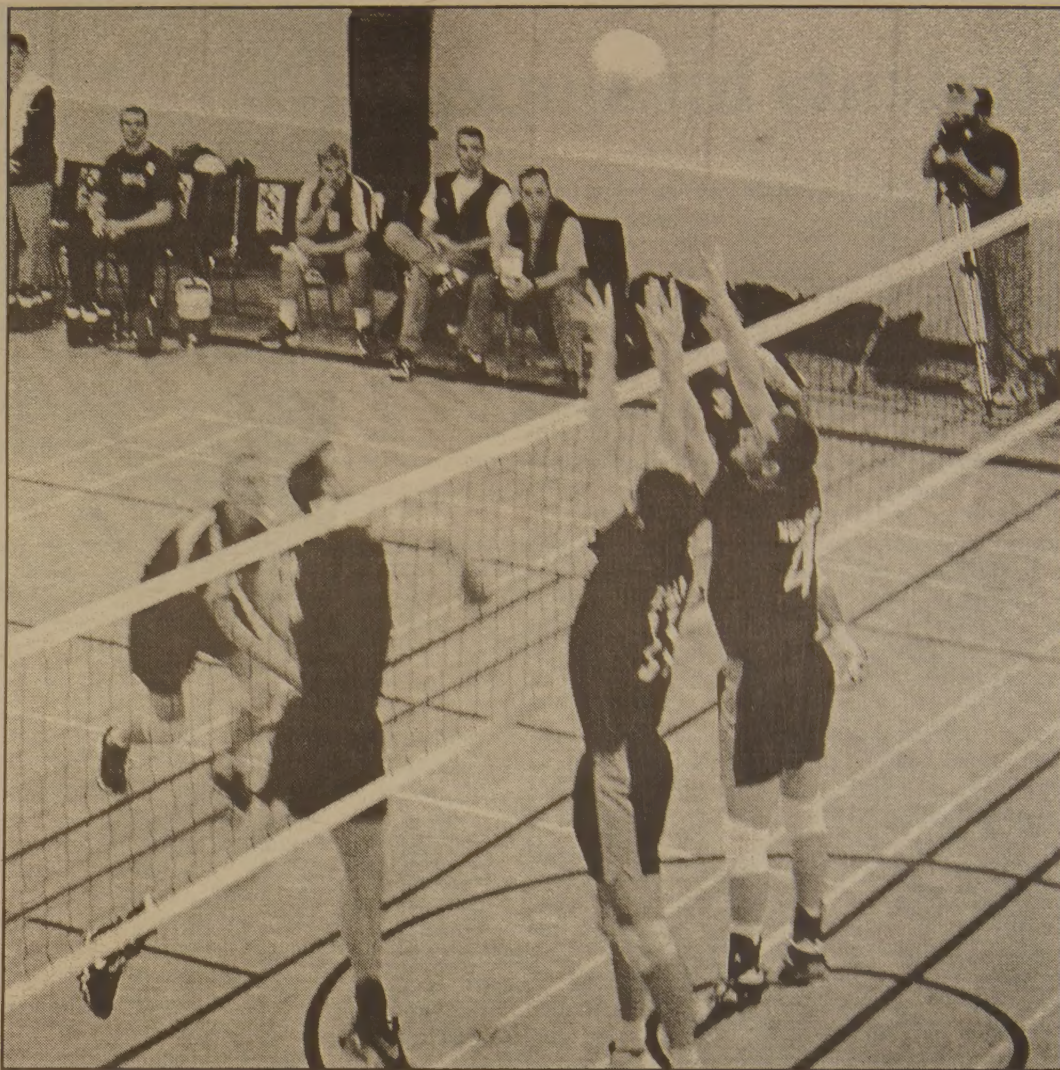
They will, in all likelihood, meet the Hawks at the Ontario championships.

"Next time we see them we know which rotations to concentrate on. If we can get Shawn healthy we should be laughing," said Bentley.

Bentley and Cudmore said the loss doesn't affect the team mentally because it was how they played that mattered.

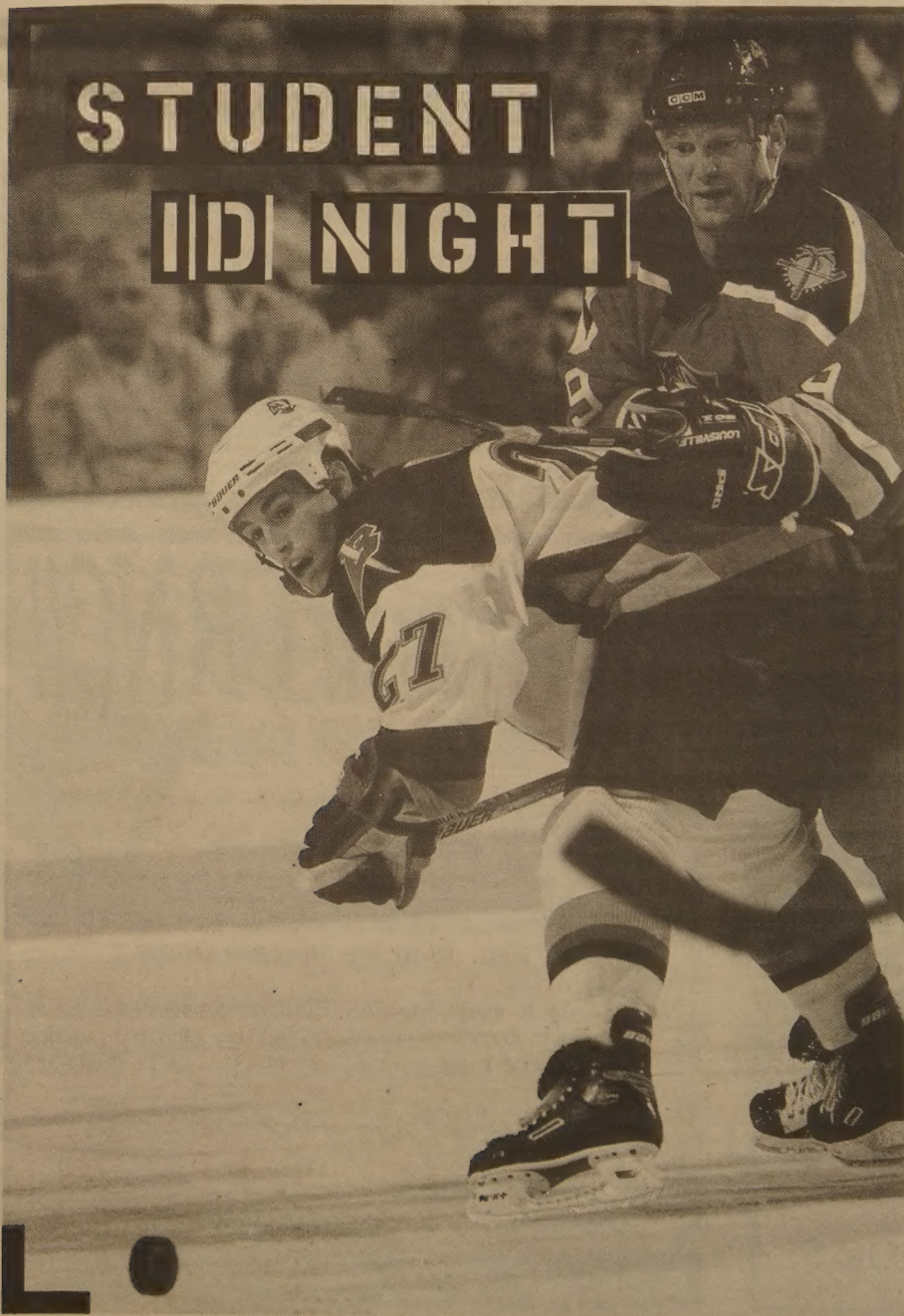
The men were on a 4-0 winning streak before this loss and hope to continue to win again.

The new defensive system implemented against Humber "worked well." Now there's time to fine tune it and make some adjustments before the Ontario championships in a few short weeks.



Knights' volleyball players Kerby Bentley (11) and Bill Lang (4) block Humber's kill attempt in last Saturday's match held at Niagara College.

Photo by Lee Whitehead



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Florida Panthers vs. Buffalo Sabres



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Sports

Students hit slopes

By **DEBORAH RICHARDSON**
Staff Writer

Enjoy Blue in white.
Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) arranged a trip for 60 students to go night skiing at Blue Mountain in Collingwood, Ont.

Two buses, provided by Further Still, were used to transport the happy skiers. Both vehicles were painted and decorated with hippie-style graphics inside and out. Markers were passed around on the bus to add a personal greeting or logo from anxious skiers and snowboarders.

Blue Mountain was called about one hour before the buses were expected to arrive there. It was "good news." Fresh powder had just been laid and all runs were open.

To pass time on the almost six-hour bus ride to Blue Mountain, an estimated time of arrival pool was taken. The prize soon amounted to \$25, won by Jamie Ebsary, SAC president. The time of arrival was 6:31 p.m.

Tickets were sold by SAC for \$20, which covered the bus trip and a lift ticket from 4:30 to 10 p.m. An extra \$10 was charged if skiers or snowboarders chose to rent. SAC covered about half of the total cost, helping make it more affordable for students.

Ebsary, 20, of Hamilton, a second-year General Arts and Science program student, said the majority

of comments from students on the trip were "pretty much everybody who went had a good time."

Ebsary said one complaint was the length of the bus trip.

"It took a long time to get up there and a long time to get home. We didn't get back until four in the morning," she said.

One way to avoid this may have been to find a place closer to the college, such as Kissing Bridge or Holiday Valley.

She said SAC was looking to support Canadian businesses by staying on this side of the border. It also reduced the cost of the tickets. She said next time SAC may consider going over the border to reduce travel time.

A problem SAC is considering about State-side travel is the likelihood the group would be pulled over by U.S. border personnel.

"We know," she said, "if you are taking a bus over, regardless of what kind of bus it is, you are going to get pulled over, especially a bunch of college students."

The trip was designed for both experienced skiers and snowboarders and students looking to try out the sports as well.

Ebsary said she hadn't skied in seven years but still came out.

"I went down on my butt most of the time," she said, "but it was a really good time."

"My friends, Rick and Brian, attempted to help me get down the hill and were very patient with me,



SAC arranged a ski trip for almost 60 students at Blue Mountain, in Collingwood, Ont.
Photo by Deborah Richardson

and I thank them."

Unfortunately, for the less experienced, lessons were planned but the last session was at 7 p.m. Niagara College's late arrival caused them to miss the session.

The ski conditions at Blue Mountain were "good at first," Ebsary said, but after an hour it began to rain. Some people chose the chalet to shelter them from the weather conditions.

Ebsary said although the weather worsened she didn't mind being on the slopes.

Mike Spiridonov, 22, of Port Colborne, an experienced skier, said he thought the conditions were "great."

Spiridonov, a first-year General Arts and Science program student,

said he felt the trip was planned "really well."

"It did take a little longer than expected, because everybody had to take breaks on the way up."

He said SAC seemed to be "really well organized," for the trip.

Although the bus ride was longer than expected, Spiridonov said it gave everyone a chance to meet each other by planning "name games" on the bus.

He said he'd enjoy going to Kissing Bridge because of it being a shorter ride but feels Blue Mountain is a better resort, because of its Canadian location.

Brian Durocher, 21, a student representative at the Welland campus, said the skiing trip to Blue Mountain, compared to other trips

put on by SAC this year, had a bigger turnout.

Durocher, a Computer Programming Analyst program student, of St. Catharines, said it was more successful because "we gave the students enough notice."

Durocher, as a snowboarder, said he hadn't been out in about five years but "really enjoyed it."

The conditions were "great," he said, "for someone who was just learning or a long-time skier or snowboarder."

He said he didn't "venture through the entire place, but it was great."

Ebsary said SAC is planning another ski trip for next year and is considering a possible trip to Kissing Bridge before the end of this season.

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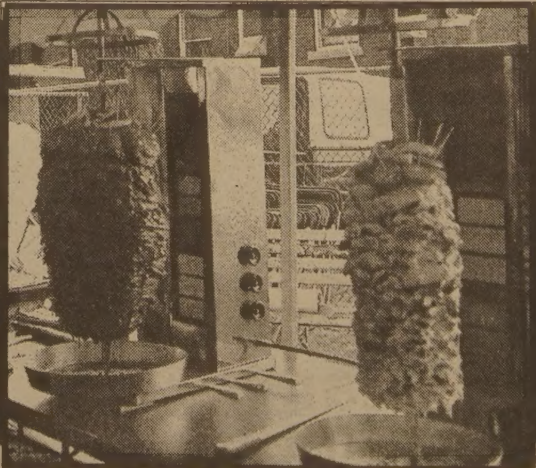
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Eye On Niagara

\$8,000 goal set for Business Sales program students

Students fired up

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Ready, set, sell.

Second-year Business Sales program students from Niagara College are off and running in the Niagara Region selling advertisements for

the Little NHL hockey tournament's program book.

The students are trying to sell as much as they can before the Feb. 18 deadline, for which an \$8,000 goal is set.

They started Jan. 19. At the project's end the student with the most money in sales will receive a \$300 bursary in his or her name to pass

on to a graduating student next year.

Although the student who wins won't receive the bursary, it "looks great on their résumé," says Nancy Schappert, program co-ordinator.

"It's such a measurable accomplishment for the students," she says, adding it shows future employers "they can sell."

This is the sixth year Business

Sales program students have sold advertising for the Little NHL tournament. Schappert says the class goal is \$8,000.

About 32 students divided into four teams are involved. "This group is so fired up," she says, adding, "they were off and running from the time we said 'go.'"

The tournament, celebrating its

25th year, will take place from March 18 to 21 and is the "second largest tournament in the Niagara Region," she says adding 68 teams will play 122 games at five arenas.

There are 1,200 players ranging from nine to 12 years old and hockey legends Wayne Gretzky and Brian Bellows have played in the tournament.

Showcase of Chefs set for Feb. 28

Money will benefit students

By DAVID OLSEN
Staff Writer

Some delicious events are coming up at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre.

The fourth evening of the Showcase of Chefs takes place on Sunday, Feb. 28, and features Erik Peacock, executive chef at the Wellington Court Cafe in St. Catharines, Ont.

Toronto Life Magazine featured Peacock among five regional chefs in an article highlighting some of the best places to dine in Niagara.

Peacock's creations can be found at the Grape and Wine

Festival and weekend winery functions.

Tickets for the Showcase of Chefs are \$40 per person plus tax and gratuity for each evening. The price includes a wine tasting at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. in the Kerrio Room.

Price includes wine tasting

Reservations can be made by calling (905) 374-7454, ext. 3602, or visiting the Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism at 5881 Dunn St., Niagara Falls.

All the money raised from the evening will directly benefit the students in programs at the Centre.

So many choices



Compact discs offered at discount prices attracted students between classes at the Welland campus last week.

Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

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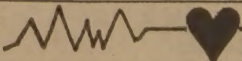
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Entertainment

Watchmen rock St. Catharines, world

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Video may have killed the radio star, but it hasn't killed the success of the Watchmen.

Joey Serlin and Sammy Kohn, guitarist and drummer respectively for Winnipeg's the Watchmen, have a lot to say about their label, their crowds and even the Spice Girls.

Before doing a soundcheck for their Feb. 4 St. Catharines show, the two wind their way past broken beer bottles and orange walls to a well-worn sofa in the basement of Big Buck's and prepare to answer questions from *Niagara News*.

The setting doesn't suggest a rock 'n' roll lifestyle of lust and excess, but these aren't your average jaded rock 'n' roll band members.

After their interviewer sneaks in a quick Manitoba reference, Kohn responds with "You're from Winnipeg? Well, we can relax then!"

They can relax? This is a band that has toured worldwide, had countless hit singles domestically, and has been the subject of more interviews than these guys probably care to remember.

The Watchmen's latest album, *Silent Radar*, was released by EMI. The band had previously held a deal with Universal Music, the label that released 1994's *In The Trees* and 1996's *Brand New Day*.

"They operate differently," says Serlin. "We're happy there."

The deal with EMI expands to Australia, where the band toured recently.

"The single *Stereo* is really taking off in Australia," says Kohn, adding they've received a lot of

media attention down under.

Domestically the Watchmen have seen their place on radio and MuchMusic shift since they released *In The Trees*. In 1994 there were no Backstreet Boys, Spice Girls or 'N Sync.

"It's getting harder and harder for real musicians," says Serlin. "The industry is very product-oriented. A lot of the really successful acts right now are contrived right at the record company. Video killed the radio star, y'know?"

Rock is far from dead if the crowds at last summer's Edgefest were any indication. The Watchmen played to stadium-sized crowds at the cross-Canada festival, which sounds like any band's dream, but Kohn and Serlin agree large venues don't always mean a great show.

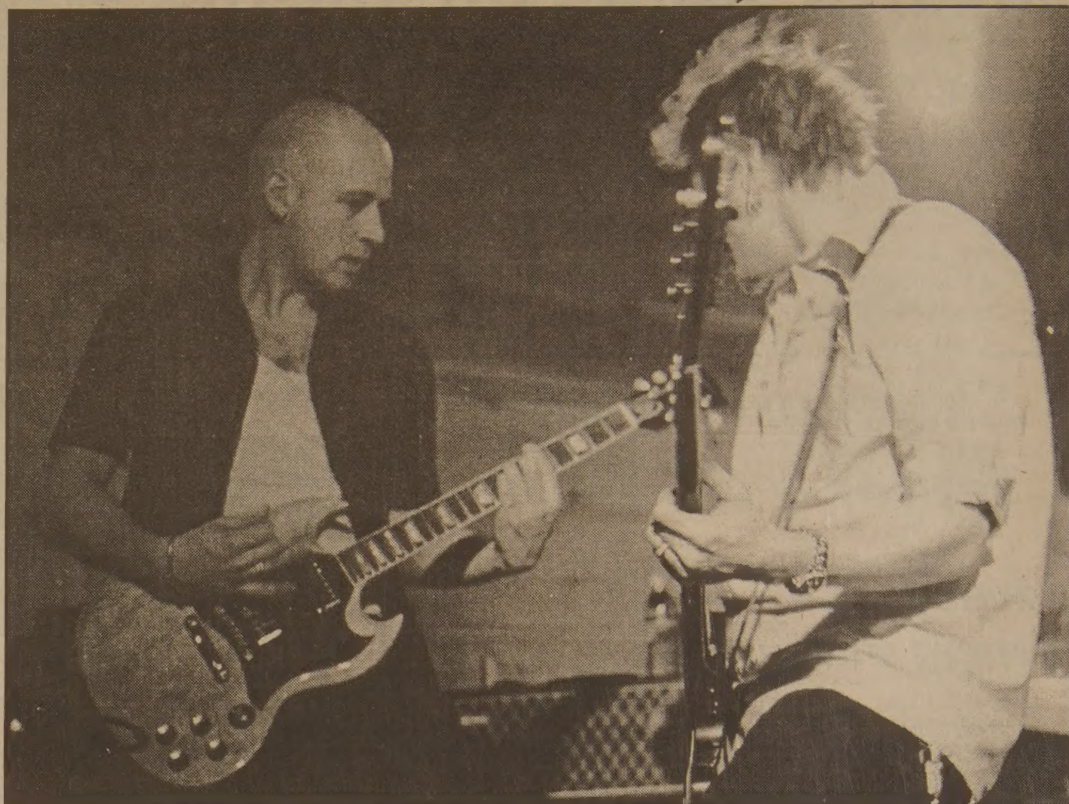
"It doesn't depend on the size of crowd," says Serlin. "It depends on the audience, and us too. It could be the coffee I had that day."

"Last night we played in a small room and expectations were down. But it was one of those nights where everyone was on," Kohn says.

Everyone — the band and the audience — was on for the Big Buck's show. It's hard to say who had more energy.

The Watchmen played songs from all of their albums, including favourites such as *Stereo*, *All Uncovered*, and *Boneyard Tree*. Lead singer Danny Greaves was sweating during the second song, and by the end Kohn and bassist Ken Tizzard had removed their shirts.

The crowd was a mix of subdued adults and frantic teens, some of whom were literally climbing over each other to get close. They



Watchmen bassist Ken Tizzard, left, and guitarist Joey Serlin give it their all during their Feb. 4 show at Big Buck's.

screamed band members' names, usually preceded by "I love you!"

While some groups would find this annoying, the Watchmen couldn't hide their amusement and chose to add fuel to the fire.

Serlin stepped forward and held his guitar out, allowing those in the first few rows to play it. Kohn took a half-full bottle of beer that two of the band members had drunk from and handed it over to the crowd. He then wiped the sweat off singer Danny Greaves's head and threw

the towel into the crowd, which fans might have fought over all night if Greaves hadn't told them to stop. Almost every screaming girl that night left clutching a set list, towel, or half-drunk bottle of water.

Five everyday facts from the Watchmen:

Drink of choice:

Kohn: White Russian

Serlin: Scotch

Worst habit of anyone in the band:

Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

Serlin: Sammy having to pee every hour in the van. Well, not in the van, but having to pull over.

Favourite Spice Girl:

Kohn: Sporty. Want to know why? I'll tell you exactly why. Because she is the most unloved Spice. And I sympathize with her. I like her, and I think she would like me.

Best place to hang out back home:

Kohn: Roca Jack's (café). I go there every day. So does Danny.

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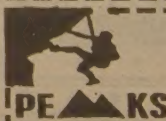
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Big Brothers/Little Brothers

Lifelong relationships continue to grow

Opportunity given to fill void

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

The relationship between a Big and Little Brother can last a lifetime and provides an opportunity to fill a void in a young boy's life, as well as the adult's.

John Ravenda, of Welland, Ont., has been a Big Brother to Chris Miller, 14, also of Welland, for more than three years. Ravenda said becoming a Big Brother has made his life "a little more complete."

Ravenda, a bachelor, said he had everything he could possibly want for himself but felt something was missing.

Asked why he decided to become a Big Brother volunteer, he said he often played volleyball with Greg Whelan, the agency's executive director.

One day, he said, he asked Whelan how things were going at the agency. Whelan said they needed many more volunteers to apply to the Big Brother program. Ravenda responded by starting the application process all prospective volunteers must take.

He was surveyed about his likes and dislikes, his favourite activities, the characteristics he was looking for in a Little Brother as well as an age preference. He was also subjected to a background check, mainly consisting of any police or arrest records.

An interview by the agency's board of directors followed. They decided they'd accept him as a Big Brother.

The board consists of 14 people with backgrounds ranging from law to being a Little Brother's mother. Ravenda said he's now a director.

A list of Little Brother profiles matching his questionnaire preferences was provided so he could choose the child he thought was best suited for him.

Little Brother Miller, with the help of a case worker, filled out a similar questionnaire. He outlined

what he wanted in a role model and a Big Brother.

Ravenda first met with Miller and his mother to make sure they were comfortable with him.

A case worker met with Miller monthly to see how things were going and if there were any complaints or problems in the relationship.

Ravenda and Miller met weekly to play volleyball, as well as see "a lot" of movies and hockey games.

Ravenda said because they've been together for so long, "it gets boring sometimes because we know everything about each other."

The case workers provide a list of businesses supporting the Big Brothers agency. Ravenda said when he shows his Big Brothers card the listed places ask him to pay his way and the Little Brothers are allowed in for free.

Throughout the year there are many tournaments in which the Big and Little Brothers can participate against others in the agency and across the region.

More volunteers needed

The tournaments include pool, bowling, golf and ball hockey.

Asked why he wanted to have a Big Brother, Miller said, so he could get out of the house and "to try new things and meet new people."

Ravenda said he thought Miller needed a male figure to do male activities with since Miller comes from a home that mainly consisted of his mother and sister, who were "driving him crazy."

Asked why Ravenda is a good Big Brother, Miller said he was, "easy to talk to and easy to compromise with."

Ravenda said he thinks Miller has done "a little better" in school since they came together and Miller's had the chance to learn more about hockey.

Miller keeps a scrapbook of ticket stubs from hockey games they've attended and other events as keepsakes.

Ravenda said he thinks Big Brothers is important because his



John Ravenda (right), Big Brother to Chris Miller, both of Welland, play a game of foosball at the Big Brother location at the Seaway Mall in Welland.

Photo by Tyler-Leigh Robinson

father died when he was young. Left fatherless, he said he wished his mother had signed him up for a similar type of service.

Ravenda said he's gained better people skills, has had the chance to meet new friends and become aware of the needs of a family with children.

Volunteers are required to be a Big Brother for one year. The for-

mal relationship can span the years until the child reaches 17. A new policy is in the works which, in 1999, will raise the cut-off age to 18.

Most of the Big Brother relationships last beyond that time. Many of the Big Brothers become a large part of the Little Brothers' lives and lives of the families. Ravenda, for example, was asked to

be Miller's godfather.

The message Ravenda wants to get out is that "it doesn't cost money to be a Big Brother. You don't need to be rich."

He said a lot of people who want to volunteer have the misconception a lot of money and resources are required. He said volunteers are always needed.

"We could use a few good men."

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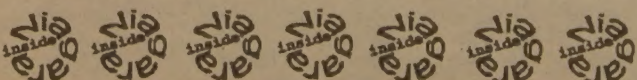
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Happy Valentine's Day

Against all odds, Valentine prevailed

By **LARISSA KONDUSKY**
Staff Writer

For centuries St. Valentine's Day has been a day to shower a special someone with romance and gifts. When did this tradition begin and how did it begin?

There are many myths about the origin of this day but one fact remains: there was a man who defied a law, was thrown in jail and killed on Feb. 14 about 270 A.D.

Under Roman Catholic tradition some believe a man, named Valentine, defied Emperor Claudius II by refusing to give up his Christian beliefs.

Claudius jailed Valentine and ordered he be beaten with clubs and beheaded.

While Valentine was imprisoned, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. It's said he left her a farewell note signed, "From your Valentine."

Others believe Claudius had a shortage of men for his armies. He believed this was because men

wanted to stay with their wives and lovers.

He became deeply enraged and ordered all weddings and engagements illegal.

A priest, named Valentine, was arrested just after performing a ceremony and was jailed for his actions. He was sentenced to death.

Yet another myth is that Valentine was a well-respected healer in Rome.

It's said a man with a blind daughter came to visit Valentine for help. The man asked Valentine to heal his daughter, saying she had been blind since birth.

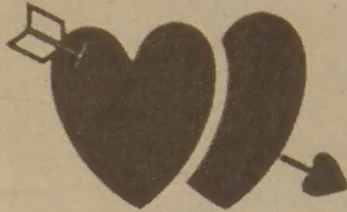
Valentine spent much time with the girl, teaching her mathematics and Roman history. He would describe the world to her with so much detail that he became her eyes.

One day Valentine was imprisoned for an illegal act and was to be beheaded.

It's said, on the eve of his death, he asked the blind girl's father to

deliver a note to her.

When the blind girl received the note, she opened it and saw a beautiful yellow flower. The note was signed, "From your Valentine."



Amazingly, she could see!

After Valentine's death, some 70 years later, Pope Julius I built a church in his honour and in 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius set aside Feb. 14 to honour him.

Another story says the holiday began with the church to offset a Roman pagan feast day on Feb. 15, which was the day of Juno, the goddess of women and marriage.

On this feast day, boys would draw a name of a girl and spend the day with her. Often, the two would fall in love and marry.

The church offset this feast by providing names of saints in place of the girls' names.

The boy would pick a saint's name and would have the entire year to become more like him.

Whichever way this holiday came about, we have changed and adopted our own ways to celebrate St. Valentine's Day.

In America, a woman named Esther Howland sent the first Valentine.

Now, children everywhere send Valentines to their classmates and many more celebrate this holiday by giving gifts of flowers and candy.

True love

By **JACKIE FIELD**
Staff Writer

Today's Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day.

You flip on the radio and hear a song dedicated to you, with the message Happy Valentine's Day. You know it has to be a coincidence, but think nothing of it.

All day the message sticks close to your thoughts.

Later a floral arrangement is delivered addressed to you.

You know something has to be going on, since you don't have someone to send you flowers and dedicate songs to you.

An older neighbour tells you that everything that has happened to you today will happen over the next few years from future boyfriends.

As he turns to walk away, you see a small set of wings on his back.

Just as you thought all hope was gone, this man brings it back to you. True love is in the very near future.

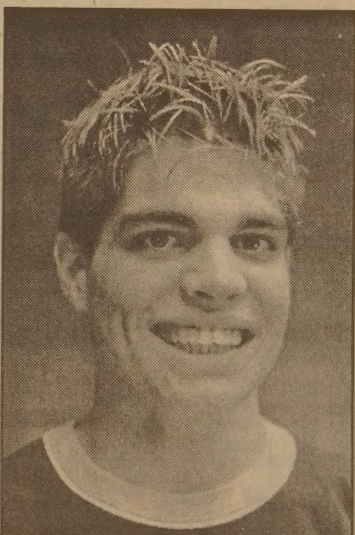
Word on Campus

What is the best Valentine's gift you've received?

By **AMY KAAL**
Staff Writer



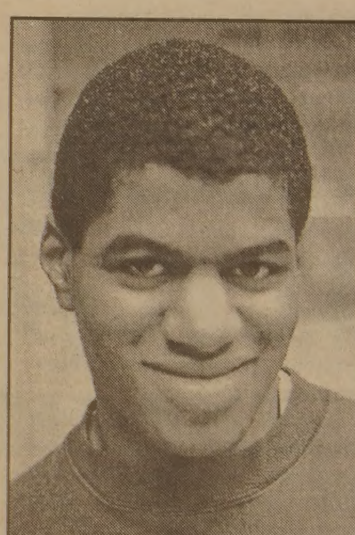
Brenda Brouasssa, 18, of Ridgeway, a first-year student in the Correctional Worker program, says, "A dozen yellow roses."



Ian Semper, 19, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a first-year student in the General Arts and Science program, says, "A cute teddy bear stuffed with chocolate."



Marie Wistow, 22, of Niagara Falls, a first-year General Arts and Science program student, says, "A gold ring with four rubies."



Trevor Guftave, 21, of Courtice, a first-year student in the Legal Assistant program, says, "A gold chain."



Loretta Firth, a worker at the Welland campus Donut Diner, says, "A nice dinner out."

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